Easement

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

A Maria de la Caración de Caración de				
1. Name of Property				
historic name Abraham Hall				
other names PG:62-7				
2. Location				
street & number 7612 Old Muirkirk Road		not for publication		
city or town Beltsville				
state Maryland code MD county Prin	ce George's code 033	zip code20705		
3. State/Federal Agency Certification				
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standar Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property See continuation sheet for additional comments). Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register.	rth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the beconsidered significant ☐ nationally 2-/-05 Date	ne property ⊠ meets ☐ does ☐ statewide ⊠ locally. (☐		
Signature of certifying official/Title Date				
State or Federal agency and bureau				
4. National Park Service Certification				
I hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. Determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other (explain):	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action		

County and	Prince George's County, Maryland County and State		
	rces within Property sly listed resources in the count)		
1	Noncontributing 0 buildings 0 sites 0 structures 0 objects 0 Total		
number of contrib	outing resources previously		
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Current Functions (Enter categories from ins	tructions)		
COMMERCE/TRADE	: business		
SOCIAL: meeting hal	1		
Materials (Enter categories from ins	structions)		
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n t	Number of Resour (Do not include previous ang(s) Contributing t		

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG:62-7	
Abraham Hall	
Name of Property	
Prince George's County	
County and State	

Section _7_ Page _1_

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Abraham Hall, constructed in 1889, is a 3-bay, 2-story, wood-frame, front-gable lodge with a small, 1-story, front-gable addition on its west corner and a substantial 1-story, gable-roof addition on its northeast side. Abraham Hall stands on the northeast side of Old Muirkirk Road in the Beltsville vicinity of Prince George's County. The building occupies a grassy lot with mature trees and is surrounded by wooded areas and scattered houses.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG:62-7	
Abraham Hall	
Name of Property	
Prince George's County	
County and State	

Section _7 Page _2_

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Abraham Hall, constructed in 1889, stands on the northeast side of Old Muirkirk Road in the Beltsville vicinity of Prince George's County, Maryland. Abraham Hall is located at the center of the historic African American community of Rossville. Its secluded setting consists of woodlands to the southwest and northeast and scattered houses to the northwest and southeast. Abraham Hall is set back from Old Muirkirk Road on a 3.85-acre grassy lot with mature trees.

Abraham Hall is a 3-bay, 2-story, wood-frame, front-gable lodge. It has a brick foundation, wood lap siding with cornerboards, and a shake roof with a boxed cornice. A brick chimney rises from the northwest slope of the roof. The main entry is located in the center of the front (southwest) elevation and consists of 5-panel double doors with a drip cap. The 2/2 wood windows have plain surrounds with drip caps, louvered shutters, and cast iron shutter dogs. On the west corner of the building is a 1-story, 1-bay, front-gable restroom addition with a single window on its northwest side. On he northeast side (rear) of the building is a 1-story, gable-roof addition with a concrete foundation and standing-seam metal roof.

The interior of Abraham Hall consists of single large rooms on the first and second floors. The first floor has a wood floor, wide beadboard wainscoting, and drywall upper walls and ceiling with exposed chamfered beams. The window surrounds are molded with bull's-eye corner blocks. The baseboard is simple and recent, and there is no crown molding. A low, shallow stage occupies the northeast addition to the building. An original staircase with a closet beneath occupies the south corner. A recent kitchen has been partitioned off along the northwest wall, and a recent restroom occupies the addition on the west corner. The second floor has the same finishes as the first floor and a wood and glass display cabinet built into the west corner.

Abraham Hall retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling. The building retains its location, setting, and design in its relationship to Old Muirkirk Road and the houses in Rossville. Despite nearby suburban development, it retains a rural, secluded feeling. Both the interior and exterior were carefully restored between 1986 and 1991 using original materials or in-kind replacements.

	Abraham Hall (PG:62-7) Name of Property 8. Statement of Significance			Prince George's County, Maryland County and State	
			ement of Significance		
	Ap (Ma	plic rk "x'	able National Register Criteria 'in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Register listing)	Area of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)	
	\boxtimes	Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.	ETHNIC HISTORY: African American SOCIAL HISTORY ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION ARCHITECTURE	
		В	Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
	\boxtimes	С	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1889-1964	
		D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates	
			Considerations in all the boxes that apply)	1889: Abraham Hall constructed 1963: social use declined	
	Pro	pert	y is:		
_		A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)	
		В	removed from its original location.	N/A	
		С	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation	
		D	a cemetery.	African American	
		E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.		
		F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder	
		G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	John W. Jackson (builder)	
	Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)				
	9. Major Bibliographical References				
	Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)				
	Pre	vio	us documentation on files (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:	
			preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: Prince George's County Planning Department	

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG:62-7
Abraham Hall
Name of Property

Section 8 Page 1

Prince George's County, Maryland
County and State

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Abraham Hall, constructed in 1889, is significant for its association with the themes "The end of Reconstruction in Prince George's County, 1872-1896," "Plessy vs. Ferguson and the institution of government-sanctioned segregation in Prince George's County, 1896-1913," and "Suburban settlement in Prince George's County: The African American experience, 1896-1964." These themes are set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation for African American Historic Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland. Abraham Hall was constructed by the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham, an African American society that was established for the social welfare of its members. Originally known as Rebecca Lodge #6 of the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham, the building was constructed in 1889 in the burgeoning community of Rossville. Abraham Hall, an excellent example of a multi-purpose building associated with African Americans, served as a meeting hall, a house of worship, a school, and a social hall for African Americans living in a segregated society.

The period of significance for Abraham Hall begins in 1889 with its construction and ends in 1964, the end date of the associated theme, "Suburban settlement in Prince George's County: The African American experience, 1896-1964."

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Abraham Hall	
Name of Property	

Section	8	Page	2	

Prince George's County, Maryland
County and State

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Abraham Hall was constructed in 1889 in Rossville, a community of freedmen, most of whom worked at the nearby Muirkirk Iron Furnace. Abraham Hall was constructed on one of twelve lots in Rossville that were surveyed in 1886 and purchased by African Americans.¹ An article in the Laurel *Advertiser* in 1889 stated:

A portion of the old Duvall estate . . . has recently been subdivided and sold . . . to certain colored people residing in the vicinity of Muirkirk. The land is of excellent quality and the site very pleasant for residences. The Sons and Daughters of Abraham have purchased about five acres of land and have now about completed a very substantial two-story frame building, with ante-room and closets, to be used as a hall in which to hold the meetings of the society.²

The same article noted that "Contractor and Builder" John W. Jackson had "two buildings under way (sic) at Rossville." Jackson was probably the builder of Abraham Hall.

At the time Abraham Hall was constructed, there were no public social services for African Americans, and freedmen were struggling to establish homes and livelihoods. African American churches and societies provided community and support networks to a people excluded from white institutions. Abraham Hall was originally titled Rebecca Lodge #6 of the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham. Like other African American benefit societies, the Benevolent Sons and Daughters was a combination social service and insurance organization that provided emergency financial assistance, death benefits, and other services to its members. The Rebecca Lodge had been chartered in 1877 and included members of Queen's Chapel, also located in Rossville. Abraham Hall and Queen's Chapel remained closely associated for many years.³

Abraham Hall provided a safe place of assembly for African Americans barred from much of the world by segregation and white hostility. Like most African American lodges, churches and schools, Abraham Hall housed a number of functions. Over the years, it served as a lodge for the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham and also at times for the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.⁴ After the original Queen's Chapel burned in 1899, Abraham Hall served as a

¹ Susan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form for Abraham Hall.

² The Advertiser, October 2, 1889. Quoted in Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form for Abraham Hall.

³ Susan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form for Abraham Hall.

⁴ The Odd Fellows was the most popular secret society among African Americans. Its African American membership grew exponentially from the end of the Civil War through the early 20th century. Augustus Meier, Negro Thought in America, 137.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG:62-7 Abraham Hall Name of Property

	Prince George's County, Maryland
Section 8 Page 3	County and State

house of worship until the new church opened in 1901. Abraham Hall also served as a school from ca. 1890 until Muirkirk School opened ca. 1922. During the mid-20th century, the building was the site of concerts, dances, and movies.⁵

Although social activities diminished during the 1960s, Abraham Hall remained in use as a lodge until the mid-1970s. The building was restored in 1986 and rededicated in 1991.⁶ The first floor is still occasionally used for social gatherings. The second floor currently houses the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area office.

usan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form for Abraham Hall; Historic Abraham Hall (pamphlet).

Fiistoric Abraham Hall (pamphlet).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG:62-7
Abraham Hall
Name of Property

Section	9	Page	1
		5	

Prince George's County, Maryland
County and State

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Historic Abraham Hall. Photocopy of pamphlet. [Prince George's County Planning Department]

Meier, August. Negro Thought in American, 1880-1915: Racial Ideologies in the Age of Booker T. Washington. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press, 1968.

Pearl, Susan G. Abraham Hall, Beltsville, Maryland. Maryland Inventory of History Properties Form. Maryland Historical Trust. 1986.

----. African-American Heritage Survey, 1996. Upper Marlboro, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1996

Abraham Hall (PG:62-7) Name of Property		Prince George's County, Maryland County and State
10. Geographical Data) = = 1500 1 (1) (100 100 (100 100 100 100 100 100 100 1
Acreage of Property 3.85 acres		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation shape)	neet)	
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2	4	
		☐ See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continua	ation sheet)	
	W. 2000 W. do 2	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuous continu	nuation sheet)	
4.5		
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Betty Bird, Julie Darsie		
Organization Betty Bird & Associates		date August 2003
street & number 2607 24 th St. NW, Suite 3		telephone (202) 588-9033
city or town Washington, District of Column	bia state N/A	zip code 20008
Additional Documentation		
Submit the following items with the completed form:		
Continuation Sheets		
Maps		
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indi	cating the property's location	
A Sketch map for historic districts and prop	perties having large acreage	or numerous resources.
Photographs		
Representative black and white photogra	phs of the property.	
Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items	. 35 8 8	
Property Owner		
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)		
name Abraham Sons & Daughters c/o Wi	lliam Jones	
street & number 6155 Odell Road		telephone (301) 937-5040
Street a namber 0133 oden road		

benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of nagement and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG:62-7
Abraham Hall
Name of Property

 Prince George's County, Maryland	
County and State	

Section 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The National Register boundary for Abraham Hall is identical to that for Prince George's County Tax Map 14, Lot 81. The boundary encompasses 3.85 acres.

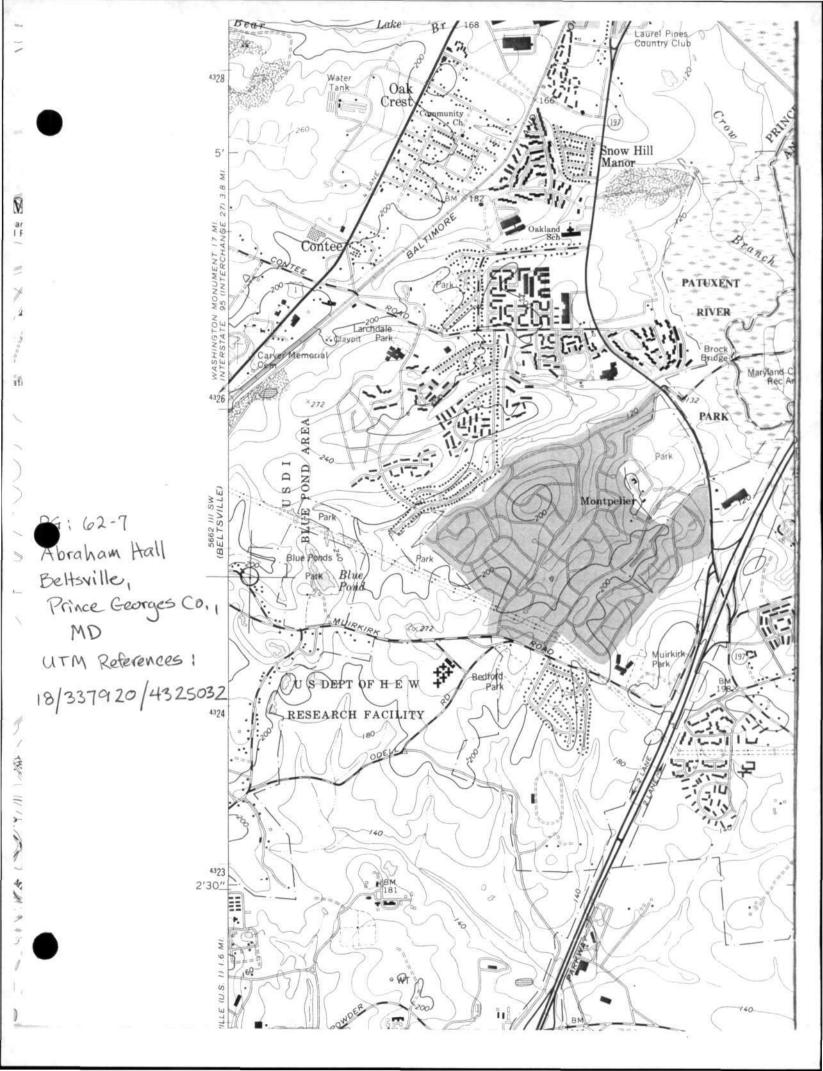
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The National Register boundary comprises the original lot on which Abraham Hall was constructed.

Abraham Hall (PG:62-7)	Prince George's County, Maryland
Name of Property	County and State
0. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 3.85 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)	
1 1 8 3 3 7 9 2 0 4 3 2 5 0 3 2 3 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
2 4	
	☐ See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Betty Bird, Julie Darsie	
Organization Betty Bird & Associates	date August 2003
street & number 2607 24 th St. NW, Suite 3	telephone (202) 588-9033
city or town Washington, District of Columbia state N/A	zip code 20008
No. Con State of Stat	
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location	on.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreag	e or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the property.	
Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)	
name Abraham Sons & Daughters c/o William Jones	
street & number 6155 Odell Road	telephone (301) 937-5040
city or town Beltsville state Maryla	nd zip code 20705-4102
Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for application	

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.





PG: 62-77 Abraham Hall Prince George's County, Manyland Julie Darsie for Betty Pred of Associates . August 2003 MD SHPO Southurest and Southeast elevations 10+10

2020SII NNNIS



PG: 62-7-7 Abroham Hall France George's Courty, Maryland Julie Durie for Bethy Brid & Associates August 2003 MD SHPO South elevation

202 0511 NNN 15



PG: 62-73-7 Abraham Hall Prince George's County, Maryland Julie Parsie for Betty Bird & Associates August 2003 MD SHPO Southwest and northwest elevations. Bathroom addition 30+6

ZINNN HIZDCOZ



PG: 62-7-7 Abraham Hall Prince George's Courty, Maryland Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates August 2003 MD SHPO Northwest and northeast elevations 4 of 6

7030211 NHHI2



PG: 62-73-7 Abraham Hall Prince George's County, Maryland Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates. August 2003 MD SHPO Northeast and southeast elalations 50 6

2020211 N N N 1 1 2



PG: 62-77 Abraham Hall Prince George's County, Maryland Julie Darsie for Bety Bird & Associates August 2003. MD SHPO First floor interior, New to southwest Lo of lo

2020STI N N N I S

Easement

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G. #62-7

Magi No. 1700295610

DOE _yes _no

1. Name (indicate	preferred name)		
historic Rebecca Lodge #6 of t	he Benevolent Sons and	Daughters of Abrah	am Valentus
and/or common Abraham Hall	obs frame front-gabled	ad Hall is a two-st	Aeran Vide+story
2. Location	to in the land sundiv	There's on a crucal fit	Jarre Zau
street & number 7612 01d Mui	rkirk Road	dat three-pay est	_ not for publication
city, town Beltsville	Muirkirk, Rossville vicinity of	congressional district	5
	county	Prince George's	he al in
3. Classification		offi .last factors	thos niefg // An
Category Ownership district publicX building(s)X private both site	yes: restricted d yes: unrestricted	Present Useagriculturecommercialeducationalentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitary	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other:
4. Owner of Prop	erty (give names ar	nd mailing addresses	of <u>all</u> owners)
name Rebecca Lodge #6 of th	ne Benevolent Sons and	Daughters of Abraha	m and
street & number c/o William	Jones, 6155 Odell Roa	d telephone no	:: 1190 - IU
city, town Beltsville,	state	and zip code M	D. ,aleneg
5. Location of Le	gal Description	n	al poth12
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Prince George's County	Courthouse	liber JWB #9
street & number Main Street	finds, rises from the	Med brits, stoye d	folio 207
city, town Upper Marlboro,		state	MD. 20772
6. Representatio	n in Existing	Historical Surve	eys
Prince George's County	/ Inventory of Historic	Sites	Forta Wick
date 1974	name of the Genan	federal state	X countyloca
spository for survey records	istory Division M-NCPPC		
Riverdale,		state	MD.

7. Description

Survey No.P.G. #62-7

Condition deteriorate		Check one unaltered	Check one _X_ original site				
good _X_ fair	ruins unexposed	_x_ altered	moved date of move				

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary Description

Abraham Hall is a two-story frame front-gabled building, with a small one-story gable-roof side wing, and a one-story addition to the rear. It was built in 1889 on a rural lot in the 1888 subdivision of Rossville. The main block is three bays by two bays. Entrance is in the central bay of the principal three-bay west gable end through panelled double doors. Siding of this principal gable end is German. Attached to the north facade, flush with the west gable front, is a small gable-roof kitchen wing.

An early twentieth century one-story rear addition extends the length of the building by one bay. All siding other than the west elevation is of plain horizontal board. Interior consists of one large room on each level, with a two-run enclosed staircase in the southwest corner. Surrounds of windows and doors have multiband molding with bullseye corner blocks, and walls are panelled below the chair rail with beaded wainscoting.

Description

The Abraham Hall is a two-story frame front-gable structure, with a small side wing, and an addition to the rear. It stands on a rural lot on the old Muirkirk Road in the nineteenth century subdivision known as Rossville.

The main block of the building is 28 feet by 20 feet, two bays by three bays. The principal facade is the west gable end. Entrance is in the central bay of the three bay west gable front, through panelled double doors in a narrow molded surround. Each leaf of the door has five molded panels. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash, they have narrow molded surrounds with a narrow projecting lintel, and dark green louvered shutters. Siding is plain horizontal board, unpainted, on all facades except the west gable front, which is covered with German siding. The gable roof is covered with red asphalt shingle; in seriously deteriorating condition, it is undergoing repairs in 1986. The cornice is boxed with crown molding. A tall corbelled brick stove chimney rises from the north plane of the roof between the two bays. The building rests on a brick foundation; there is no basement.

Attached to the north facade, flush with the west gable front, is a small gable-roof kitchen room, circa 8 feet by 8 feet. A miniature replica of the main block, this small wing has roof ridge parallel to that of the main block. (The present gable roof of the wing is said to have replaced, in the 1940's, the formerly flat roof.) The German siding which covers the gable front of the main block extends across the gable front of the kitchen

8. Si	8. Significance			Survey No. P.G. #62-7							
Period Areas of Significance—C prehistoric archeology-prehistoric 1400–1499 archeology-historic 1500–1599 agriculture 1600–1699 X architecture 1700–1799 art X 1800–1899 commerce 1900– communications					Iandscape architectu Iaw Iiterature Imilitary Imusic			science sculpture Social/humanitarian theater			
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	ar	d/or	Criteria:A Exception:) _1	EF	G		
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Prepare	both	a sum	mary paragraph	of si	gnifi	cance	and a	a gener	ral state	ment	of history and

support.

Significance

8. Significance

Abraham Hall is the most outstanding example in Prince George's County of a late nineteenth century Lodge, or Benevolent Society building, for blacks. It was built in 1889 at the center of a newly developing community of freedmen who farmed and worked at the nearby Muirkirk Iron Furnace. The building was known as Rebecca Lodge #6 of the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham, and membership in the organization assured emergency financial assistance to its black members. Throughout the century of its existence, it has served this function, as well as schoolhouse and Methodist meeting house after the destruction by fire of the first Queen's Chapel. It was the most substantial building in the 1888 subdivision of Rossville, and has remained the focal point of that community.

History and Support

Abraham Hall is the earliest and most outstanding example in Prince George's County of a late nineteenth century Lodge, or Benevolent Society building, for blacks. The only other (known) surviving example, St. Mary's Beneficial Society Hall in Upper Marlboro, is a one-story more modest example, probably constructed several years later than Abraham Hall.

Abraham Hall was built in 1889 at the center of Rossville, a new community of freedmen most of whom worked at nearby Muirkirk Iron Furnace. Twenty years earlier, local blacks had established a chapel a short distance to the west, on a 1/3 acre parcel of land deeded by William Minnix, a local white farmer. This log chapel, erected in 1868 on the south side of the old road to Muirkirk, was called Queen's Chapel, after Thomas Queen, one of the six founders. Queens Chapel became part of the Bladensburg Circuit of the Washington Conference of Methodist Churches; it was a religious and social center for the black farmers and laborers of the area.

In 1886, the Equity Court of Prince George's County ordered the division and sale of the real estate of the late Mark Duvall of Vansville. A 24.8 acre parcel of Duvall's land adjoined Oueen's Chapel on the east; this Cf. Notes, Item #8.

10. 0	eograp	phical Data						
Acreage of nominated property 3.85 Quadrangle name Laurel, Section D UTM References do NOT complete UTM references			_	Tax Map 14, P. 52 Quadrangle scale				
A L L Zone E	asting	Northing	B Zone	Easting		Northing		
C			D F H _	J				
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11. F	Susan G. P	epared By	1	istoric	Survey	F 4		
11. Fo	Susan G. P	epared By	estigator, H	istoric	Survey	Project		
11. For name/title organization street & number 1	Susan G. P Prince Ge Historic c/o Coun	epared By Pearl, Principal Inve	estigator, H sion	CACCER.	Septemb	Project		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

Description (continued)

Survey No. P.G. 62-7

Section 7 Page 2

wing. This small wing has only one window, identical to those of the main block, centered in its north facade. The wing rests on a brick foundation which appears to have been recently reconstructed.

At some time early in the twentieth century, the main block was extended one bay to the east by the construction of a one-story rear wing. Siding, roof and fenestration are the same as in the main block. The foundation, however, is of concrete which is scored to resemble stone. This foundation is badly deteriorated, and open in the rear (east), to a crawl-space under this east addition. There is a door into this addition on its south facade.

Interior of the main block consists of one large room on each story. Surrounds of windows and doors are of multiband molding with bullseye corner blocks. Below the chair-rail, the walls are panelled with beaded wainscoting. On the first story, the room is extended to include a raised stage as the rear (east) end. Differences in construction are apparent in the large first floor room; the floor boards are narrower in the east extension, as are the panels of beaded wainscoting. There is a two-run enclosed staircase in the southwest corner of the room. The staircase rises along the south wall to a landing, then turns 90 degrees and rises along the west wall (lighted by the windows in that gable end) to the second story. The staircase enclosure is panelled with wainscoting of alternating width, differing from that on the lower walls of the main block and rear extension.

The building stands on a 3.85 acre lot which backs on a wooded area and stream. There are no outbuildings.

Survey No. P.G. #62-7
Section 8 Page 2

parcel was surveyed by William H. Latimer, and divided into 12 unequal lots along the north side of the Muirkirk road. Within a year, the twelve lots were purchased by the families of local blacks, most of whom were employed as laborers at the Muirkirk Iron Furnace. By 1889 structures had been erected on all but one lot. Two of the new owner-residents, Thomas Matthews (lot #5) and (K)notley Johnson (lot #11) had been among the six founders of the Queen's Chapel. Another, Augustus Ross (lot #1), gave his name to the community. 3

One of the buildings erected in 1888/89 (and the only one which was not a dwelling) was the Rebecca Lodge #6, a two-story frame structure built on the largest of the lots, i.e. the centrally located, 3.85-acre lot #9. This lot was purchased by the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham, a fraternal organization which provided emergency financial assistance to members. The Rebecca Lodge had been chartered in 1877, and its charter members were already members of Queen's Chapel. Through membership in Rebecca Lodge, members were assured financial assistance for emergencies, as well as death benefits, thus being provided a kind of insurance otherwise unavailable to blacks during this period.⁴

The lodge which was erected on lot #9 came to be known as "Abraham Hall." It was the largest and most substantial of the buildings erected in that first year: it was assessed in 1889 at a value of \$550, as compared with a range of \$100 to \$450 for the dwellings built in Rossville during the same year. 5 It was probably constructed by John W. Jackson, contractor and builder from Laurel, who is known to have been associated with at least two of the buildings in Rossville in that year. An article (entitled "Rossville") in The Advertiser, published in Laurel, 2 October 1889, gives evidence that Abraham Hall was considered an impressive building from the beginning: "a portion of the old Duvall estate ... has recently been subdivided and sold... to certain colored people residing in the vicinity of Muirkirk. The land is of excellent quality and the site very pleasant for residences. The Sons and Daughters of Abraham have purchased about five [sic] acres of land and have now about completed a very substantial two-story frame building, with ante-room and closets, to be used as a hall in which to hold the meetings of the society. New dwellings are now in course of erection, or have already been completed; for Mr. Ross, John Carter, Philip, Ezekiel and Thomas Williams, Carter Dickson, Notley Johnson, and Robert Taylor." In the same issue Mr. John W. Jackson, "Contractor and Builder, ...on "A" Street near Main, Laurel," is noted as having "two buildings under way at Rossville."6

Abraham Hall served not only as a meeting place of the Benevolent Society, but also as a place of worship after Queen's Chapel burned in the 1890's; it continued that function until the second Queen's Chapel, a small frame building, was completed in 1901. Abraham Hall also served as a schoolhouse before the construction of Muirkirk School circa 1922. The Hall was also the scene of many camp meetings for the congregations of Queen's Chapel and the two other churches of the Laurel Charge - St. Mark's and Mt. Zion.⁷

Survey No.P.G. #62-7
Section 8 Page 3

Abraham Hall is a rare surviving example of the benevolent society halls established in black communities in the post Civil War era. It has for nearly a century been the focal point of a community built by and for blacks, and is an important reminder of local black society in the late nineteenth century.

Notes

- Prince George's County Deed HB #1:130; Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church 116th Anniversary Book, 1984; pp. 12-19.
- Prince George's County Equity #1588; Prince George's County Deeds JWB #9:60, 203, 204, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 439, 603; JWB #10:131, 133.
- ³ Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-89; Prince George's County Deed HB #1:130; Queen's Chapel U.M. Church, op. cit. pp. 12-29; The Advertiser, 2 Oct. 1889.
- Prince George's County Deed JWB #9:207; Queen's Chapel U.M. Church, op. cit., pp. 12-34.
- ⁵ Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1889.
- 6 The Advertiser, 2 October 1889.
- Conversations with Marsha Brown, Queen's Chapel historian, 1983-86; Queen's Chapel U.M. Church, op. cit., pp. 12-34.

JWB#9:207

23 May 1887

Beginning four perches on the twelfth line of the whole tract of twenty four and eighty eight hundredths acres and running with said road South thirty two degrees east sixteen perches, then with the fourth line of number eight reverse, North fifty two and one fourth degrees East forty five perches to second outline, then North seventy three degrees West two perches, then North sixty eight and one half degrees West fifteen and one half perches, then with lot number ten South fifty three and one fourth degrees west thirty four perches to the place of beginning, containing three and eighty five hundredths of an acre more or less. Being lot number nine described on the plat made by William J. Latimer and filed in the above cause.

Easement

Circa 1888

P. G. #62-7 Abraham Hall 7612 Old Muirkirk Road, Beltsville, Md. Priv/Unocc/Meeting/Fair

Abraham Hall is a two-story, frame, gable-roofed building with entrance through paneled double doors in the center of the (main) west gable end. There is a flanking window on each side of this doorway, repeated on the second story. The floor plan is a single large room on both stories, but the first-story room is extended farther to the rear by the addition of a one-story section to the east. Attached to the west (front) end of the north facade is a small closet room, a miniature of the main block, one-story, gable-roofed, and with one window in its north facade.

In 1886, a 25-acre parcel of land adjoining the Negro Methodist Church (Queen's Chapel) and cemetery was subdivided into twelve lots which became the community of Rossville. The largest (3.5 acre) lot was purchased by the Rebecca Lodge #6 of the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham. This was a benevolent society, whose members were assured financial assistance for emergencies, as well as death benefits, thus being provided a kind of insurance otherwise unavailable to Blacks during this period. The handsome and sturdy hall was erected in 1888, the largest and most substantial building in Rossville, and as early as 1897 was enlarged by the present one-story addition. Abraham Hall served as both church and school from the time Queen's Chapel was burned (ca. 1890) until it was rebuilt in 1901. The Hall was also the scene of camp meetings for the Methodist churches of the Laurel Charge. Abraham Hall is a rare surviving example of the benevolent society halls established in Black communities in the late nineteenth century.

Easement P.G. #62-20 Survey No. P.G. #62-7)

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.#1700295610

DOE __yes __no

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	referred name)		1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -
			45-1865
historic Rebecca Lodge #6		Edward Company	
and/or common Abraham Hall	1		10000
2. Location			egi
street & number 7612 Old Muin	rkirk Road		not for publication
A. V. A. A944 A. V.	Muirk	irk	
city, town Beltsville	vicinity of	congressional district	5
state Maryland	county	P.G.	
3. Classification			
Category Ownership districtpublic X building(s)X privatestructurebothsite Public Acquisitionin processbeing considerednot_applicable	Status occupiedX unoccupiedwork in progress Accessibleyes: restrictedyes: unrestricted Xno	Present Useagriculturecommercialeducationalentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitary	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
name Rebecca Lodge #6	of the Benevole	nt Sons and Daug telephone no	
city, town	state	and zip code	
5. Location of Leg	gal Descripti	on	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	G. Co. Courtho	use	liber JWB #9
street & number Main Street			folio 207
city, town Upper Marlboro		state	Marylane
6. Representation	in Existing	Historical Surv	eys
title NONE			
date		federal stat	ecountyloca
depository for survey records	E 3	<u> </u>	3
city, town	4	state	

7. Description

51.,0

Survey No. P.G. #62-7

Condition excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one X original site		n - ni zadić na i		
good _X fair	ruins unexposed	_X altered	moved dat	e of	move		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Abraham Hall is a two-story, frame, gable-roofed building with entrance through double doors in the (main) west gable end. Each leaf of the double door has five panels. There is a flanking window on each side of the door, and on the second story as well. The floor is a single large room on both stories, but the first story room is extended farther to the rear by the addition of a one-story section to the east. This extension allows for a small stage at the east end of the first floor room.

Attached to the west (front) end of the north facade a is a small closet room, a miniature of the main block, onestory, gable-roofed, and with one window in its north facade.

Beaded wainscoting is applied all around the large room, below the chair rail. Architraves of windows have bulls-eye corner blocks. A staircase in the southwest corner rises to the second story.

[c-Check and justify below oric community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention			ng _	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government		re X religion — science — sculpture —X social/ humanitarian — theater — transportation —X other (specify) — Black Histo					
Specific	dates	188	8	В	uilder	Archi	tect				3.83		
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support.

After Mark Duvall of Vansville died, a 24.8 acre parcel of his land which adjoined the Negro Methodist church and graveyard was surveyed and subdivided in 1886 by Surveyor William Latimer. It was divided into 12 lots, and within a year the lots were purchased by the families of Blacks who were employed at the nearby Muirkirk Iron Furnace. Lot #9, at 3.85 acres, the largest of the 12 lots, was purchased in May 1887 by the Rebecca Lodge #6 of the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham. This was a benevolent society, whose charter members were members of the already established Queen's agen Chapel; through membership in the Rebecca Lodge, members were assured financial assistance for emergencies, as well as death benefits, thus being provided a kind of insurance otherwise unavailable to Blacks during this period.

A handsome and sturdy building was erected in 1888 by members of the lodge; it was the largest and most substantial building in Rossville, being assessed at \$550 in 1889 (as compared with a range of \$100 to \$450 for the houses built in the same year). By 1897, the building had been enlarged, probably by the one-story addition to the rear (east) which increased the size of the main meeting room.

Abraham Hall also served as both church and school after Queen's Chapel was destroyed by fire circa 1890, until it was rebuilt in 1901. The Hall was also the scene of many camp meetings for the congregations of Queen's Chapel and the two other churches of the Laurel Charge, St. Mark's and Mt. Zion.

Abraham Hall is a rare surviving example of the benevolent society halls established in Black communities during the late nineteenth century. Although presently vacant and deteriorating, it is still a sturdy building and fully restorable.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #62-7

P.G. Co. Deed JWB #9:207

P.G. Co. Equity #1588

P.G. Co. Tax Assessments 1888 - 1909

10. Geographical Data	fill be write.	- 1704-11- - 1704-11-
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UTM References do NOT complete UTM refere	ences	a serve sage, who replaced
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List all states and counties for properties overla state code	county	county boundaries
state code	county	code
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Susan G. Pearl	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
organization History Division M-NCP	PC	date Feb. 1983
street & number 4811 Riverdale Road		telephone 779-2011
city or town Riverdale,		state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

Easement

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

PG: #62-7 PG 29 1700295604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC				
AND/OR COMMON				
Old Scho	oolhouse			
2 LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
7612 Mui	irkirk Road		CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
	(Beltsville) _	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	
STATE Maryland			Prince Geo	raola
Europeal.			Prince Gec	orge s
3 CLASSIFICA	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
PISTRICT	FUBLIC	VOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	_MUSEUM
✓BUILDING(S)	✓ PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	_вотн	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		<u>√</u> NO	MILITARY	OTHER
OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
NAME			8 2	
			Telephone #:	
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN			STATE , Z	ip code
Francis Control Control		VICINITY OF		
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION	Liber #:	
COURTHOUSE.		Folio #:		
	Prince George'	s County Court	house	
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Upper Ma	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NAME		Maryland	
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
DATE		FEDERAL	_STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR		2000 To 2000 T		
SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

ZFAIR

__EXCELLENT

_RUINS _UNEXPOSED CHECK ONE

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a small, one-story wooden building-now a private residence in a small, rural Negro community. Building type is similar to typical area one-room schools.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY III GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION 6 57 175 371 17 10000 57 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE COUNTY STATE COUNTY FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian DATE ORGANIZATION 1/30/73 M-NCPPC TELEPHONE STREET & NUMBER

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

589-1480

Maryland

STATE

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

8787 Georgia Ave.

Silver Spring

CITY OR TOWN

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

SIGNIFICANCE

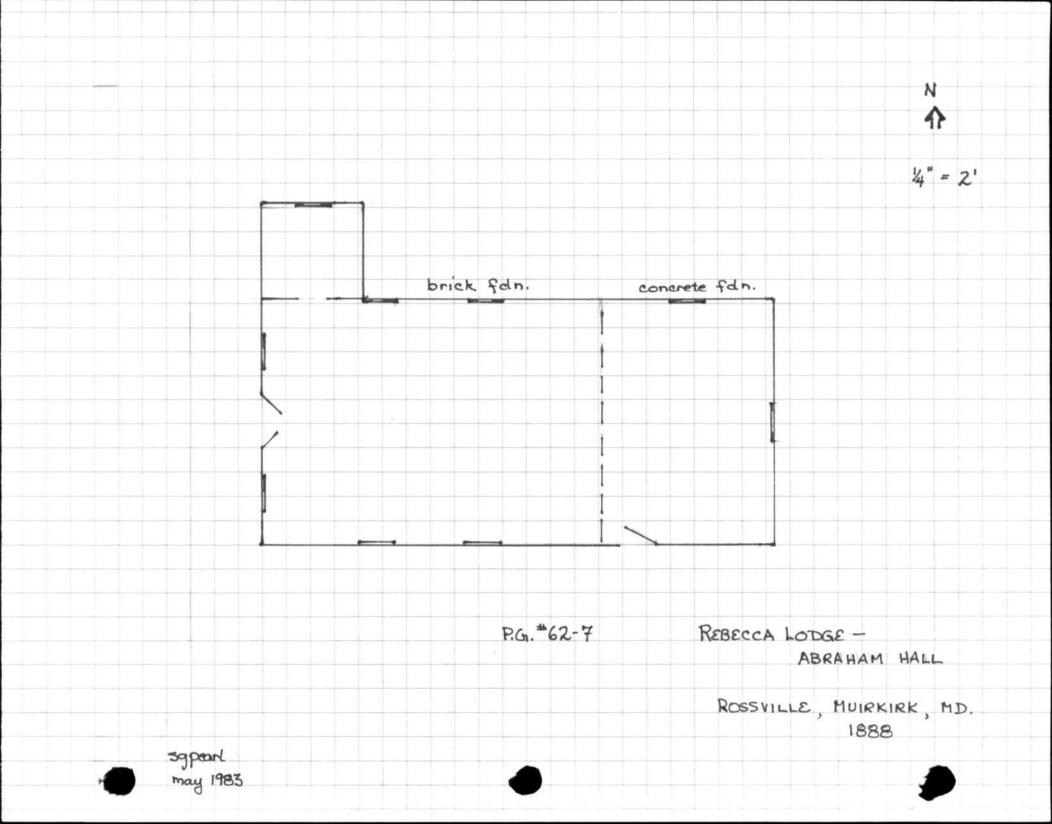
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1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1600-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
V1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

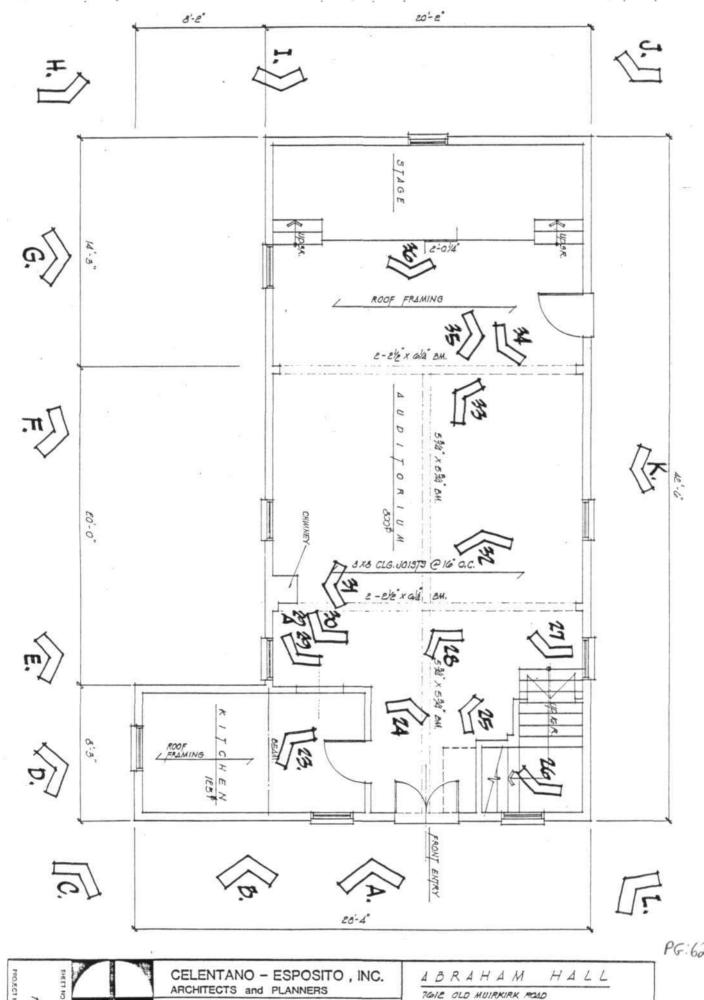
SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Perhaps was once a one-room school. These lands belonged to Charles E. Coffin, owner of the nearby Muirkirk Iron Works, in 1878.





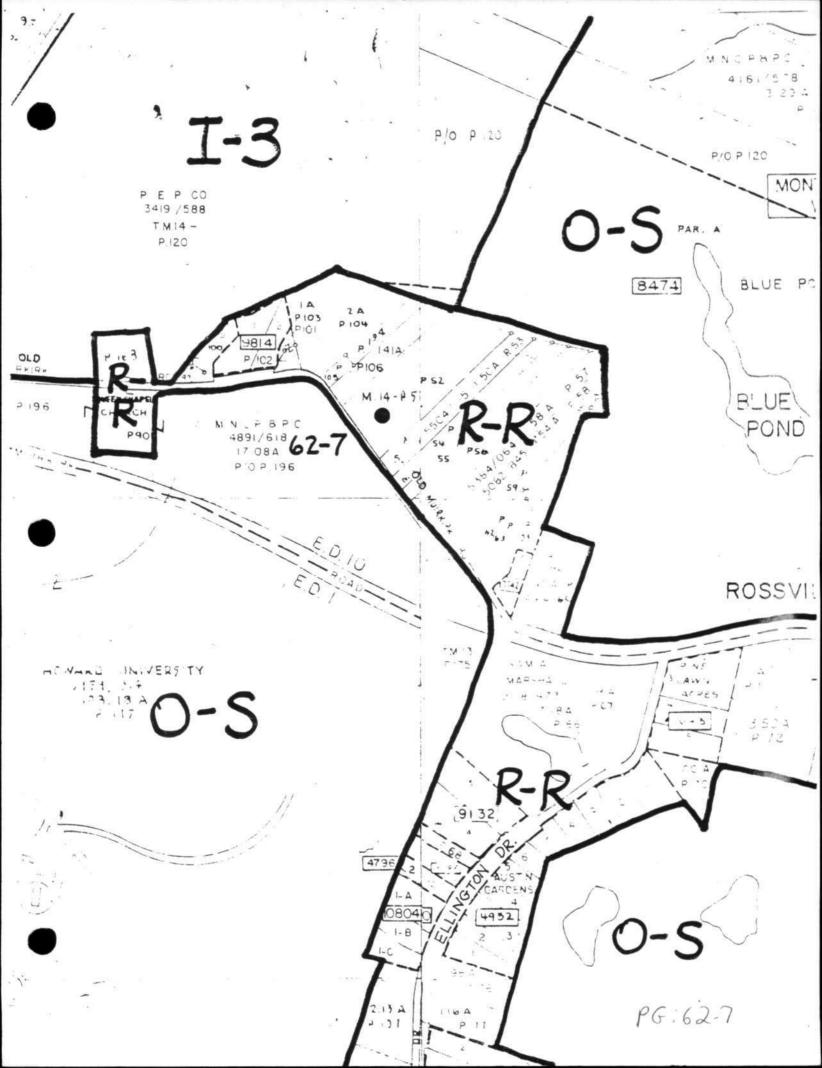
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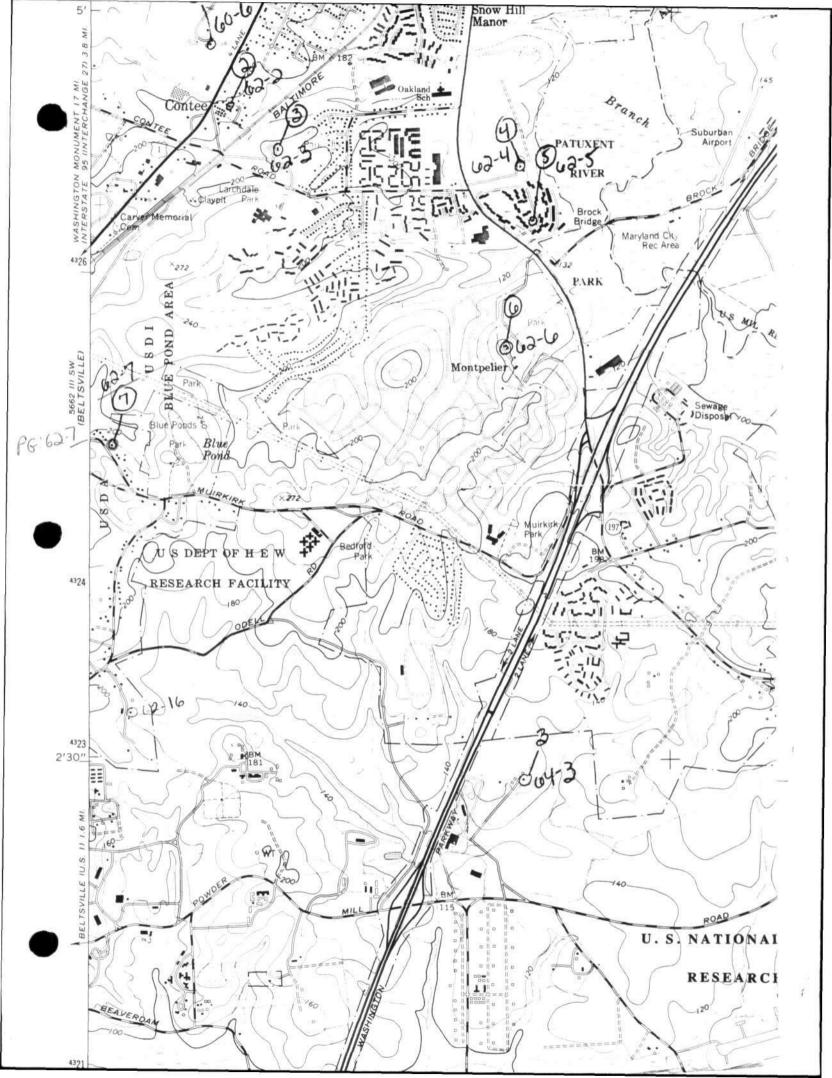
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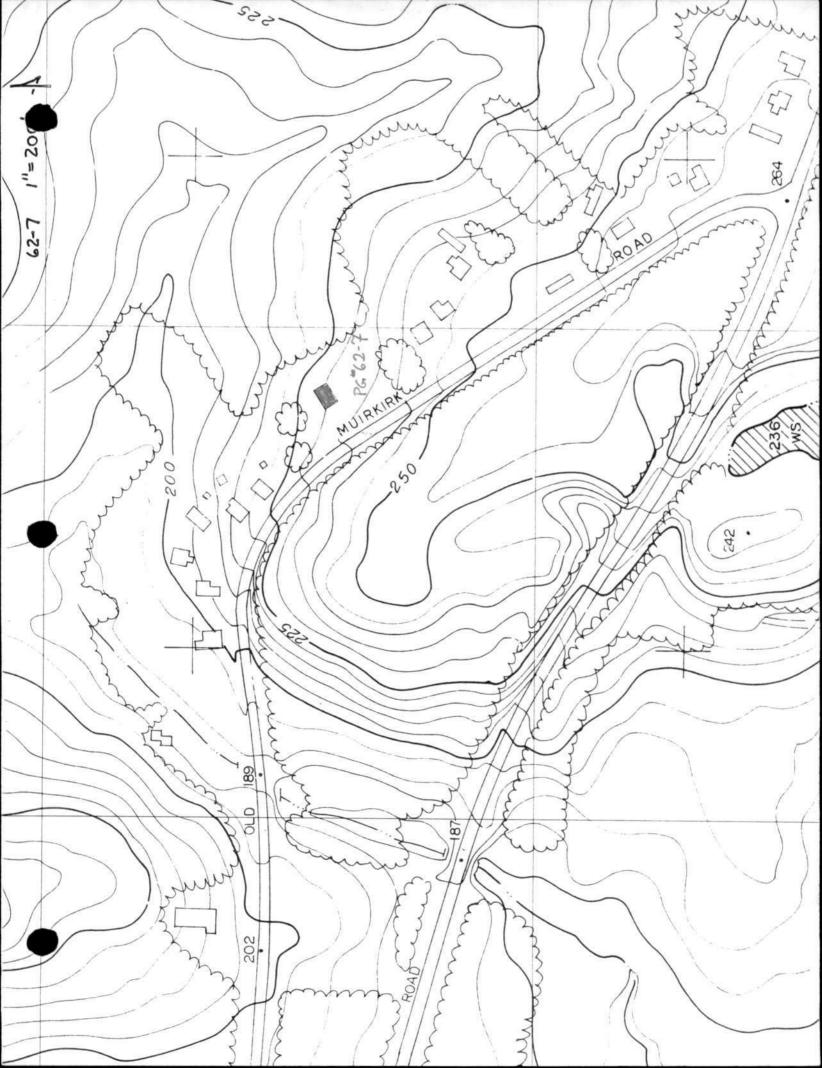
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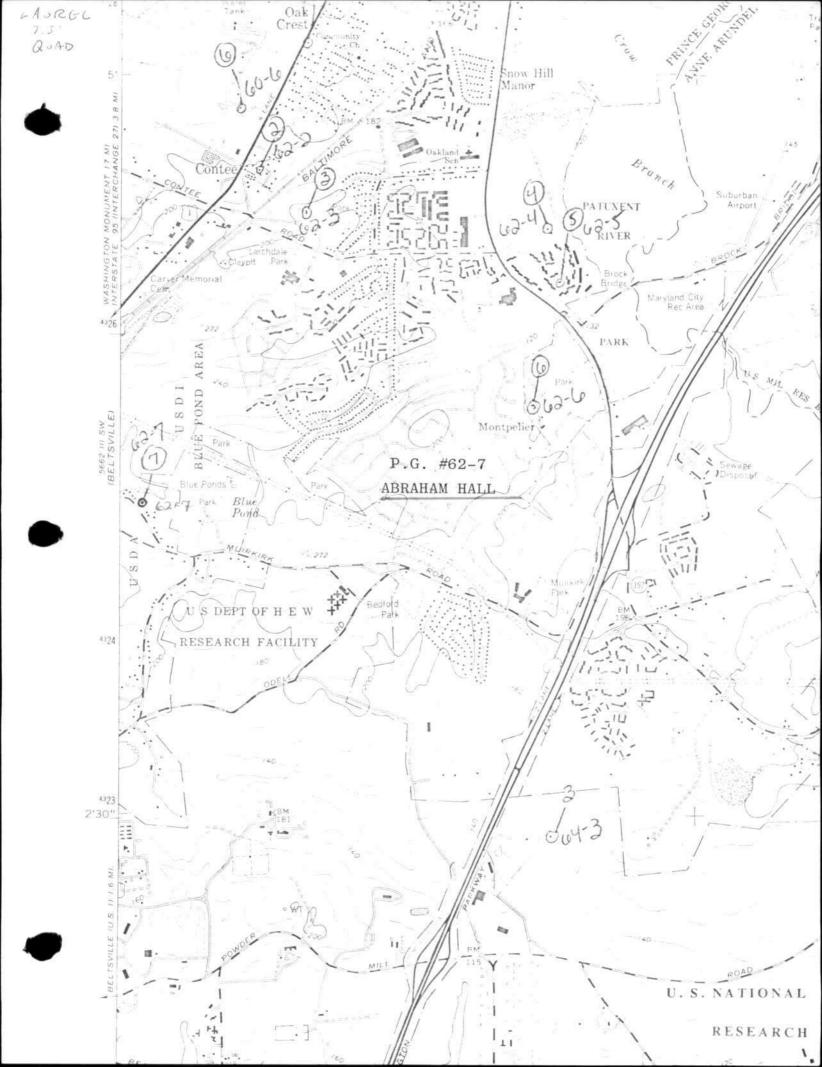
TGIE OLD MUIRKIRK FOAD BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

VANUARY 10, 1986. FIRST FLOOR PLAN.











P. G. #62 - 7

Abraham Hall
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
May 1983
Northwest 3/4 Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#62-7

Prince George's County, MD

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

Susan G. Pearl

Abraham Hall

Northeast 3/4 elevation

January 1986



PG#62-7 Abraham Hall Prince George's County, MD Susan G. Pearl January 1986

South elevation

Neg. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#62-7

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl January 1986

Neg. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

Abraham Hall

West Cornice detail



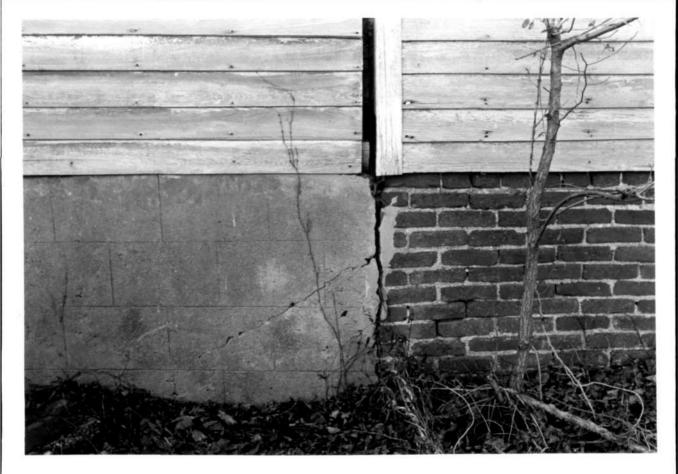
P. G. #62 - 7

Abraham Hall
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
January 1983
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #62 - 7

Abraham Hall
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
January 1983
West Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#62-7

Abraham Hall Prince George's County, MD Susan G. Pearl January 1986 North foundation detail Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.